

**Statement of Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations
Hearing on FY 2016 Defense Innovation and Research Request
April 22, 2015**

Good morning, the subcommittee will come to order. Our hearing today focuses on the fiscal year 2016 budget request for Defense Innovation and Research. We are pleased to welcome:

- Mr. Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics;
- Mr. Alan Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Development, Research and Engineering; and
- Dr. Steven Walker, Deputy Director of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

I commend Mr. Shaffer, as he concludes his work with the Department of Defense. Mr. Shaffer will be departing from the Department to serve as the Director of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Science Office located in Paris. We appreciate his 38 years of distinguished service, and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Today, we look forward to learning more about the science and technology investments proposed in the fiscal year 2016 budget. This subcommittee has been a strong advocate of science and technology investments and has helped provide funding to make certain our nation can maintain its role as the leader in technology and innovation. We want to continue to receive the input of experts at the Department of Defense.

Thank you for joining us today to testify as our committee continues to evaluate the budget request.

Your full statements will be included in the record.

Now I will turn to the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin, for his opening remarks.

Thank you.